Montgomery County

Board of Commissioners

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Joseph M. DiMino, DO

Director of Health/Medical Director

Dear Superintendent,

Montgomery County Health Department is recommending that every school district in the county adopt a school tuberculosis test modification of testing only those students who are at risk of exposure to tuberculosis (TB) disease. Risk Screening and targeted testing for tuberculosis (TB) is a key strategy for controlling and preventing infection on your school campuses. In addition this policy contributes to the larger public health goal of reducing the burden of TB in the United States.

A test for TB infection will be required of students with a TB risk factor. Students with a positive test for TB infection must undergo chest radiography and medical exam. Those students with a positive test should receive treatment for TB infection and /or rarely TB disease. The focus of testing is to identify students who are infected and to treat the student to prevent the development and spread of disease.

The Montgomery County Health Department provides testing for TB infection for students identified as high risk.

* children born or lived in ≥ 90 days in high-incidence countries (where the tuberculosis incidence rate is ≥ 20 cases per 100,000 population) who do not have prior tuberculosis test results in the U.S. **Test upon school entry and repeat ONLY if child travels back to high-incidence country for ≥ 90 days.**

Enclosed please find the World Health Organization (WHO) report 2011 Estimated Global Tuberculosis Incidence. This report lists every country and its corresponding tuberculosis case rate. If a country listed has a case rate of **less than 20 cases per 100,000 population,** individuals from that country do not need to be tested because the risk is low**.**

In summation, I am advising that your school district adopt a school TB test modification policy of testing students who have been identified as high risk for TB exposure. Currently five of the 23 school districts in Montgomery County are documented with PA Department of Health to have selected a TB test policy of testing only high risk students.

Please complete and sign the enclosed form and fax to 215-784-5524 to the attention of Anne Flannery-Lundgren, TB Control Program Supervisor.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. DiMino, D.O.

Director of Health/Medical Director